

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association
KU6S Newsletter

January, 2012
Volume 12, Issue 1



Bands are Hot!! 10 is Jumping!

Yes, 10 meters is back. During the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest this past Thanksgiving weekend, many stations worked more than 100 DXCC entities on 10 meters. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said that he keeps hearing from numerous hams who have been licensed only three or four years, telling him that they've never experienced a 10 meter opening before because they weren't licensed during the last solar cycle peak: "A common phrase I'm hearing is, 'Now I understand what all the Old-Timers in my club were talking about -- 10 meters is great!' With a concentration of activity for the contest, there will be an opportunity for the first time in several years to experience the beauty of a wide-open 10 meter band. With so much excitement worldwide over the great conditions, we are seeing the highest level of participation on 10 Meters in a very long time!"



10-10 International — What is it?

[Ten-Ten International](#) Net, or 10-10 for short, is an organization of amateur radio operators dedicated to maintaining high levels of amateur radio communications on the 10-meter amateur band (28.0-29.7 MHz). Established in 1962, 10-10 has grown continuously since that day, with some ups and downs according to the numbers of sunspots and the openness of the band. As you read this, the number of 10-10 numbers issued to members is over 76,000. 10-10 would welcome your membership in the organization if you have an amateur radio license with 10-meter privileges.

10-10 is a volunteer organization with no paid officers. Although 10-10 does contract for certain services to ensure that each member receives his or her quarterly issue of **10-10 News**, the 30+ page journal of 10-10 activities, the real work of providing services for members falls on the shoulders of dedicated volunteers.



*Just one more contact before I go to dinner.
10 Meters might drop out!*

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Special points of interest

- SBARA Elections Held
- Officers and Appointees
- Time for Amateur Radio

2012 SBARA Officers Elected



During our monthly meeting in December, SBARA members at large accepted the Board's nominations and voted for SBARA's 2012 slate of officers.

SBARA Leadership Team 2012

Officers:

President	Bernhard Haller	AE6YN
Vice President	Albert Wu	KJ6CHW
Treasurer	Don Amyx	N6DA
Secretary	Al Rendon	WT6K

Appointees:

KU6S Trustee	Don Amyx	N6DA
Membership Chairman	Al Rendon	WT6K
Newsletter Editor	Bill Artelt	WB9YVM
Photographer	J J Lerma	NW6J
Quarter Master	Greg Miller	WY6P
Web Master	Umesh Ghodke	K6VUG
Circulation Manager	Tammy Dunbar	KG6HJI
Raffle Chairman	Albert Wu	KJ6CHW
Program Facilitator	Open Position	
Board Member at Large	Open Position	

*SBARA holds annual election of Club officers, Come and meet them at the January meeting!!
January 13th, 2012 Congratulations to all of the new Officers and Appointees!!*

We need you input for the next Groundplane!!

- Operating stories
- Station construction
- Operating accessories
- Product reviews
- Interesting contacts

Please consider putting an article together today for the Groundplane!!

Tri-City VE Test Dates Announced

Tri-City VE Session Dates 2012

Saturday, Jan 14, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Mar 10, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Apr 10, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 12, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Jun 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 14, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Aug 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sep 8, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct 9, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 10, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec 11, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

The Tri-City VE exam sessions are held at 9:00am on the second Saturday of each odd month (unless it is a holiday) and the Tuesday evening session begins at 6:30pm. The testing location is: Hurricane Electric; Warm Springs Blvd.; Fremont, Ca. Enter via the Main Lobby doors and proceed to the second floor and follow the signs to the test area!

Additional information may be obtained by sending an email to: Bernhard, AE6YN, ae6yn@arrl.net



US Amateurs Now 700,000 Strong

As the third quarter of 2011 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, began calculating the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, as well as the number of new licensees. "At the end of September, I saw that the number of hams in the US was high," she said. "When I started comparing that number with other years, I found that it was an all-time high." For the first time, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the US. "When looking at the three current license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- these numbers are impressive," Somma explained. "The number of Technicians peaked in March 2011 at 342,572, while in September 2011, we saw both Generals and Extras peak at 159,861 and 125,661, re-

spectively. As new Technicians earn their Amateur Radio licenses, and current Technician licensees move on to General and Generals upgrade to Extra, this can cause up-and-down fluctuations for these totals."

Somma said these high numbers mean that hams are upgrading and renewing in larger numbers and staying interested in hobby: "These are compelling statistics and I am thrilled to see the highest number of amateur radio licensees ever! When I began working at the ARRL back in the mid 1980s, there were approximately 450,000 amateurs in the US. Our VEC program conducted an average of 55 sessions a week. Today, we administer approximately 150 exam sessions each week, and our total number of licensees across all three license classes continues to grow each year."

-- reprinted from recent ARRL letter

Software Defined Radio

A software-defined radio system, or SDR, is a radio communication system where components that have been typically implemented in hardware (e.g. mixers, filters, amplifiers, modulators/demodulators, detectors, etc.) are instead implemented by means of software on a personal computer or embedded computing devices.[1] While the concept of SDR is not new, the rapidly evolving capabilities of digital electronics render practical many processes which used to be only theoretically possible.

A basic SDR system may consist of a personal computer equipped with a sound card, or other analog-to-digital converter, preceded by some form of RF front end. Significant amounts of signal processing are handed over to the general-purpose

processor, rather than being done in special-purpose hardware. Such a design produces a radio which can receive and transmit widely different radio protocols (sometimes referred to as waveforms) based solely on the software used.

Software radios have significant utility for the military and cell phone services, both of which must serve a wide variety of changing radio protocols in real time. In the long term, software-defined radios are expected by proponents like the SDRForum (now The Wireless Innovation Forum) to become the dominant technology in radio communications. SDRs, along with software defined antennas are the enablers of the cognitive radio.

[Flex Radio 5000A](#)

Do1Thing

An emergency can happen at any time and any place. Many public places have a first aid kit, oxygen, or an AED (automated external defibrillator) to treat people. These items can only save lives if someone knows how to use them. Actions you take in the first few minutes after an injury or other medical incident may save someone's life.

[Download Fact Sheet](#)



[Software Defined Radio](#)
[Flex Radio 5000A](#)



Get Involved with SBARA

...come to a monthly meeting.

Our regular meetings take place the second Friday of the month at Hurricane Electric. Pre-Meeting social dinner begins at 6pm. Then at 7pm our meeting social begins with the monthly meeting starting at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you are a member. Bring a friend! Or if you're thinking about becoming a ham, come and learn about the hobby!

...become a member.

Membership is open to all licensed radio amateurs. The annual membership fee of \$35 help support the upkeep of our repeater, as well as participate in the Annual Field Day, plus other communication events. You can become a

...join a fox hunt.

On the Saturday of the month (around 7pm) organizes a good old fashioned fox hunt. The starting point is in Fremont, Ca. For more information, please contact Don at

...take a VE test.

VE testing is scheduled throughout the year on the second Saturday of the month on even months and on the second Tuesday of the month. Details are in this issue of the Groundplane.

Fox Hunting

Every weekend, in cities and towns all across the country, ham radio operators gather on hill-tops for a very special kind of contest — the Fox Hunt. A small, low power transmitter is hidden and the rest of the crew tries to find it. Sound simple? It can be very challenging and a whole lot of fun. The direction finding skills learned in this activity can be very valuable in locating a repeater jammer, or a lost hiker.

The ARRL has many resources in the QST Archives pertaining to direction finding available to Members Only. Several are linked from this page: [Direction Finding](#).

You may find a good PowerPoint presentation on Fox Hunting at this link on the ARRL Web: [Simple VHF Direction Finding](#).



Fox Hunting Amateur Radio Style

Making Time for Amateur Radio

So, if you're a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I Google'd, —making time for things you love. I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice.

Then, I Google'd —make time for hobbies and right off the bat, I found two good articles—5 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your Creative Hobby! (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>). Both articles offered very similar advice. Here are four points made:

1. Schedule it. Set aside a specific time during which you're going to do ham radio. Don't let that time get pre-empted.
2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio. Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a —shack and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff.
3. Partner up. Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it's a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you're a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.
4. Create a project plan. Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you'll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There's so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that's one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you'll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW— 147.015 +
600Khz, PL 103.5

WA^PWW—223.900—
500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW—442.600 +5Mhz,
PL107.2

K6AIR—146.940—600Khz, PL
123.0

K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL
123.0

ARES Net Meeting—Tuesday
Evenings @ 7:30pm on
147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5

Are you looking for your favorite Repeater? Here is information you can use!

SBARA Meeting Location—Second Friday

Our meeting location is at:
Hurricane Electric.

The address in Fremont is:
760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.
Bring your HF transceiver, antenna or HT !

Over the WWWaves...

A Collection of Various Websites sent in your friendly neighborhood hams...

<http://www.arrl.org/news/em-ham-radio-in-hollywood-em-comedian-tim-allen-stars-as-radio-amateur-on-new-tv-show>

Actor Tim Allen plays an Amateur Radio Operator in new sitcom.

A variety of Amateur Radio videos on YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CVnzNNSdU&feature=share>

Ham Public Relations by the Numbers

There are more than 18,362 ARRL Facebook members

There are 7,848 ARRL field organization appointments

There are 401 people following ARRL PR on Twitter

76 percent of Internet users get news online



Amateur Radio Repeater



The South Bay Amateur Radio Association., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time, a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

We hope to see you there!

**South Bay Amateur Radio
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Quartermaster
Greg Miller, W6YP
Program Facilitator
Open Position
Refreshments
Open Position

HAPPY NEW YEAR

SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



Upcoming SBARA Events

2012 Kick-Off Meeting

January 13th, 2012 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC— January 14th @ 9am & February 14th @ 6:30pm
at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont.

Contact: Bernhard, ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee.

***Additional information is described at Website,
www.sbara.org***

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

The Ground Plane — KU6S

<http://www.sbara.org>

P.O. Box 8401

Fremont, Ca.

PLEASE
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